

Lesson 11

Aug 22, 2023

Responsibilities of the older women

Tit 2:3 - Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,

How are women to be reverent with their behavior?

A reverent person lives in humble and grateful awareness of God's presence and power, trusting Him even through difficult situations. When God's Word is disrespected in a society, the basis for honoring God, people, and property is lost. The opposite of reverence is disrespect.

Reverent in the Greek is *ἱεροπρεπής*, hieroprepes.

The meaning of the word is "priest-like" in this context.

The root words "hieros", meaning "sacred, a temple", and prepo, meaning to be "clearly seen or to resemble" that, which is sacred to God.

Older women - πρεσβυτις, "Presbutis"

Titus was likewise to teach the older women to behave reverently, in a way suitable to sound doctrine. They were not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine.

Both were real possibilities for women whose families were grown and who may have had too much idle time on their hands. Titus was to encourage these older women to develop a ministry of teaching younger women what is good. Younger women with children were to keep their primary focus at home, but the older women would do well to reach outside their homes and share what they had learned with those who would profit from it most.

1 Tim 3:8 - And in the same way the deacons must be those who are pure and true to their word, not addicted to wine, or with greedy eyes on the contributions. This verse is about deacons but look what follows in verse 11. It is an example that the deacons set, and women are to follow, especially Pastor's wives and Deacon's wives.

1 Tim. 3:11 - Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things.
(NASB)

Dignified σεμνός, Semnos - worthy of respect/honor, noble, dignified, serious.

not malicious gossips διάβολος, diabolos - "Devil" the chief slanderer and the father of lies. The reference to the devil as is the enemy to God.

① pertains to engagement in slander, slanderous.

Faithful in all things πιστός, Pistos - pertaining to being worthy of belief or trust, trustworthy, faithful, dependable, inspiring trust/faith in all things.

a. Women whose desire concerning the details of life commiserate with their advancing years.

b. An elderly lady cannot and should not compete with the physical beauty of youth.

Prov. 11:22 - **As a ring of gold in a swine's snout
So is a beautiful woman who lacks discretion.**

The example in Proverbs shows a woman that is clinging to her beauty from youth by trying to adorn herself with jewelry or clothing that emphasizes that youth.

c. Romance, Sex, and Beauty are not her primary emphasis. These are the things that the world emphasizes, for women. The teaching of young women, and of children is significantly more important. Also, women were created to be the help mate of her husband.

d. If a woman can find out that what is in her soul is far more important than what her face and body look like, she will realize a fantastic old age. A twinkle in the eye, a smile on her face.

e. The beauty of her soul more than makes up for the lack of beauty in face and body. A child will always remember their mother when realizing their character.

Mothers are the primary teachers to children. She bears the suffering of childbirth and has a special connection to the child throughout the child's entire life.

The problems of old age:

Old age is the best time of life. Although we start to have significant health problems, God has a plan for old age. (Psa. 71:9-18)

1. Lack of mental sharpness
2. Disorientation to life from the standpoint of success standards. Not realizing your dreams of success.
(usually = money, status, fame).
3. Old age brings on an increase of MAS, especially vindictiveness and bitterness.
4. Old age brings on a lack of security.
5. Inability to concentrate.
6. Too much time for complaining, often due to unemployment. (hobby, etc..)
7. Takes longer to make decisions.
8. Old age is often out of contact with the younger generation, which can lead to hyper-criticism.

Prov. 16:31 - A gray head is a crown of glory; It is found in the way of righteousness.

Isa. 46:4 - Even in your old age I (God) will be the same, and even to your graying years I will bear you! I have done it, and I will carry you; and I will bear you and I will deliver you.

Old age is common for male and female, but there are three particular - problems mentioned in this verse.

One is behavior, one is in sins of the tongue, and one with alcoholism.

Behavior refers to the way she lives her outward life that reflects her inner life. A conduct that is Godly in all respects, where actions clearly flow from a life that desires to live for God.

This older woman sees all of life from God's viewpoint and understands that even the mundane routines of life are important to God. Her lifestyle tells a watchful observer where her priorities are. The outward observer can watch her walk through her day in order to see what

is next to God's heart. Her life revolves around things that matter to Him. She is a challenging, sharpening example.

This older woman may not naturally just possess this quality. She must grow spiritually by taking in B.D.

There are 2 principles that this woman applies.

1. God's Word is the source of truth and power.
2. God deserves first place in her life; He is her first love, and her first priority.

-Principle 1-

God's Word is the source of truth and power

(Reverent women by Rochelle Fleming, at light-work.com)

The Word of God is the foundation for All Christian growth. The woman who is reverent in her behavior consistently spends time studying God's Word, the source of truth and power, in order to stay in fellowship with the Father. She understands that the Word of God

is the foundation for understanding God's character, His will, and what pleases Him.

We study the Bible to receive guidance from God.

Psalm 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

The Bible equips us to do good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17) so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

God's Word reveals what is in our hearts.

Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and fable to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

God approves of those who diligently learn His Word.

2 Timothy 2:15 - Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

Therefore, the reverent woman fears God, walking by faith, in obedience to God's Truth, the Bible.

It is impossible to be a woman who is reverent in her behavior without the foundation of God's Word, and without a choice to obey God by faith. Over time, the woman who consistently responds in obedience to God's principles will become mature.

A mature woman possesses a "God consciousness" that influences her daily regimen. She evaluates every thought, action, and encounter by the standard of the Bible. Truth lights her path so that she can choose obedient behavior which is an outward expression of a heart that knows and communes with the Father.

Truth is the starting point for faith.

Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

Fearing God is the starting point for wisdom, or truth applied.

Proverbs 9:10 - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Faith is required to please God.

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

We are to bring our thoughts into conformity with God's Word, to think accurately about Him and obey Him.

2 Corinthians 10:5 - We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

Healthy faith produces godly living.

James 1:22 - But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

Truth is the starting point. Obedience in response to God's Word is faith in action!

-Principle 2-

God deserves 1st place in our life; He is our 1st Love

(Reverent women by Rochelle Fleming, at light-work.com)

The woman who is reverent in her behavior is passionately in love with her Savior; He has first place in her heart. Her reverence, or "God-fearing" behavior, flows from a cultivated heart-life with the Father.

- She loves the truth of the Bible, which leads her into intimate communication with the Father.

- She understands who God is, and desires to keep the fine edge of her walk with God sharply honed.

God must have first place in our life.

Exodus 20:3- "You shall have no other Gods before Me."

God must be our first love.

Revelation 2:4 - But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

Godliness requires discipline.

I Timothy 4:7-8 - But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of Godliness;

8) for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but Godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also, for the life to come.

There are 3 main fables/deceptions today that are leading people away from Jesus Christ and their salvation and hope.

1. The 1st is the false teaching that all paths lead to God.
2. The 2nd deceptive false teaching is a big one, and that's works-based salvation.
3. One of the greatest deceptions of this time goes along with what Peter said in 2 Peter 3 about scoffers who say that Jesus isn't really returning.

2 Pet. 3:3-9 - Know this, first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following

after their own lusts, 4) and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

5) For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water,

6) through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. 7) But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

8) But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. 9) The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

The living God is the only One Who can satisfy.

Psalm 42:1-2 - As the deer pants for the water brooks so, my soul pants for You, O God. 2) My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; When shall I come and appear before God?

Therefore, **reverent women** maintain passion for God through the disciplines of Godliness. Mature women in Christ do not become conformed to His image by accident. They are intentional about their time with God in prayer and in the Word.

Old age is common of course, to both male and female, but there are **3 particular problems mentioned in verse 3**, concerning older women. One is in behavior, one is in the sins of the tongue, and one with alcoholism.

not malicious gossips -

Older women have the tendency to gossip. Sins of the tongue reflect a disorientation to God's Grace and are the result of Mental attitude sins.